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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.21/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 12, 17, 20 and 26 of draft resolution A/48/L.21/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Reiterate its appreciation for the effective and timely participation of the Secretary-General and his representatives and encourage them to continue to take all necessary steps to contribute to the successful implementation of all the commitments assumed by the parties to the Peace Agreements of El Salvador, including efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the reconstruction and development of the country, which are indispensable to the consolidation of peace and democracy there;

(b) Reiterate the importance of resuming, in the shortest possible time, the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, bearing in mind the progress and agreements achieved up to May 1993, express its appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Representative for their participation in the peace process in Guatemala, and request him to continue his support to that process;

(c) Welcome with interest the initiative by the Government of Nicaragua concerning the establishment of an active group of friendly countries to play a particularly important role in supporting the reactivation of the economic and social development of the country, which will facilitate the strengthening of its institutional and democratic structures, and request the Secretary-General to give his full support to that initiative;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to provide the Central American countries with all possible support for the consolidation of peace in the region;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

2. The above requests relate to subprogramme 1, "Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking", of programme 1, "Good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection and analysis of information", of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ While resources are provided in the programme budget for activities in support of the Secretary-General's functions in the area of international peace and security, related activities are often not programmed in the programme budget since their very nature often precludes such an approach. This is true of the Secretary-General's activities in promoting a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would, with respect to the requests outlined in paragraph 1 above:

(a) Continue to provide substantive support and political guidance to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) in carrying out its verification and good offices functions;

(b) Continue to support, and participate actively in the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG);

(c) Provide support for the Nicaraguan initiative as requested in paragraph 17 of the draft resolution;

(d) Monitor and analyse developments related to the peace process in Central America as well as identify and implement such initiatives as may be appropriate to ensure the consolidation of that process;

(e) In coordination with the United Nations agencies and programmes, follow developments relating to the fashioning of a region of peace, freedom,

development and democracy in Central America and, thereon, draft the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 26 of the draft resolution.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1993-1994

4. The activities called for by the draft resolution would support activities under "International cooperation", (a) "Preparation of and participation in negotiations by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General or the Assistant Secretary-General to prevent, control and resolve conflicts", of subprogramme 1, "Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking", of programme 1, "Preventive diplomacy and peacemaking", of section 3B, "Department of Political Affairs I", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

E. Additional requirements at full cost

5. It may be recalled that, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly authorized two temporary posts (1 P-5 and 1 General Service) for 1992 in the context of its adoption of resolution 46/109 A of 17 December 1991. 3/ At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly authorized the continuation of those posts for 1993 in the context of its adoption of resolution 47/118 of 18 December 1992. 4/

6. As reflected in the latest report of the Secretary-General on this item, 5/ the Secretary-General remains closely involved in the peace process in Central America and his good offices continue to play a key role in El Salvador and in the peace talks to settle the civil conflict in Guatemala. It has been extremely difficult for the Secretariat to provide the necessary assistance to the Secretary-General with the temporary resources provided in the context of General Assembly resolutions 46/109 A and 47/118. Draft resolution A/48/L.21/Rev.1, if adopted, would request even broader activities by the Secretary-General, as outlined in paragraph 3 above.

7. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, activities outlined in paragraph 3 above would require the continuation of the two temporary posts and the establishment of an additional temporary Professional post at the P-4 level to assist in all aspects of the Secretary-General's involvement in the Central American peace process.

8. One of the officers would continue to assist the Secretary-General or his Special Representative in the peace processes in El Salvador and in Guatemala, while the second officer would assist the Secretary-General in his activities relating to support for the current initiative being undertaken by the Nicaraguan Government for the consolidation of peace in the region, and backstop all these efforts from Headquarters. It should also be noted that frequent travel to the Central American region is required in the context of the Secretary-General's role in the peace process in Central America.

9. On a full-cost basis, the requirements are estimated as follows:

(a)	Staff	
	Salary and common staff costs of one P-5, one P-4, and one General Service (Other level) staff for 12 work-months in 1994	$282 200
(b)	Travel	50 000
	Total	$332 200

F. Potential for absorption

10. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 4, "Peace-keeping operations and special missions", to cover the estimated additional requirements of $332,200 related to the provision of additional staff required to support the Secretary-General's continuing efforts in this area. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the related requirements could be absorbed from within the provision under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

G. Indication of additional requirements

11. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.21/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional resources of $332,200 would be required for 1994 under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $78,100 would be required under section 28, "Staff assessment", to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, "Income from staff assessment".

H. Contingency fund

12. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, additional expenditures proposed over and above those in the programme budget should be accommodated within a contingency fund, established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, however, provides, inter alia, that revised estimates

> "arising from the impact of extraordinary expenses, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, as well as fluctuations in rates of exchange and inflation, shall not be covered by the contingency fund and shall continue to be treated in accordance with established procedures and under the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules."

13. It is the Secretary-General's view that activities pursuant to the draft resolution clearly relate to the maintenance of peace and security. Accordingly, it is also his view that the related requirements of $332,200 that would arise are of an extraordinary nature, relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and should be treated outside the procedures related to the contingency fund.

I. Summary

14. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.21/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional appropriations of $332,200 would be required under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $78,100 would be required under section 28, "Staff assessment", to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, "Income from staff assessment".

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 3B).

3/ See A/46/772.

4/ See A/47/799.

5/ A/48/586.